Drivers, Setting up of Model Driver Training School and for the scheme National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme under which the cranes and ambulances are procured and provided to the State/UT Governments and NGOs for post accident care. During the last three years, the funds allocated to this Ministry were partly not utilized.

(c) Out of the budget provision of Rs. 47 crores for Road Safety during the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 43.25 crores was spent.

(d) and (e) The funds allocated to this Ministry for Road Safety are utilized for implementing the schemes-Awareness Campaign for Road Safety, Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers, Setting up of Model Driver Training School and for National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme under which the cranes and ambulances are procured and provided to the State/UT Governments and NGOs for post accident care. Except in the case of setting up of Model Driver Training School, the funds for road safety are utilized by this Ministry directly. In the case of Setting up of Model Driver Training School, so far the funds have been released for setting up of driver training schools in the 13 states all over the country. For timely utilization of funds, under all the schemes, the proposals are called for from various NGOs well in advance and other formalities such as the tender process for procurement etc. are being initiated in time.

Discovery of big hole in space

1531. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NASA scientists have discovered a very big hole in space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian scientists have analyzed its impact on the atmosphere;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Radio Astronomers of the University of Minnesota, US, have found the biggest hole ever seen in the universe. A survey carried"out by the Very Large Array radio telescope in New Mexico did not detect any radio sources in a volume that is about 10 billion lights years away and a billion light years in diameter. The lack of radio sources means that there are no galaxies or clusters in that volume; and the void is empty of both normal matter and dark matter.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Indian Scientists have not analysed this phenomenon as it has no impact on the earth's atmosphere.